

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 2, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 4-7, 8, 11 and 17 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 9-10, 12-16, and 18-20 stand objected to. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 17 have been amended. Claims 2, 9, 12, and 18 have been canceled and Claims 28-34 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Section 112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action states “[t]he phrase ‘a second mirror blank’ (Claim 4) lacks antecedent basis. Because Claim 4 depends on Claim 1. The Claim 1 refers to a first mirror blank, but [sic] not set forth a second mirror blank.” Applicants respectfully traverse. Using the accepted practice of using the indefinite article “a” the first time an element is introduced into a claim, Claim 4 recites “a second mirror blank” the first time “second mirror blank” is introduced. When “second mirror blank” is thereafter referred to in Claim 4, the definite article “the” is used. It is not necessary for the independent claim (Claim 1) from which a dependent claim (Claim 4) depends to recite all elements of the dependent claim. Rather, additional elements may be introduced in the dependent claim. Thus, Claims 4-7 have no antecedent basis problems and fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 4-7 were rejected based solely on § 112, paragraph 2 grounds. As described above, the 112 rejection of these claims is improper. Thus, Claims 4-7 are allowable. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Favorable action is requested.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,282,016 to Shen, et al. (“*Shen*”), and Claims 8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Shen*. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 2, Claim 8 to include the limitation of Claim 9, Claim 11 to include the limitation of Claim 12, and Claim 17 to include the limitation of Claim 18.

Because the Examiner stated that Claims 2, 9, 12, and 18 would be allowable if written in independent form, Office Action at paragraph 5, Claims 1, 8, 11 and 17 are allowable. Favorable action is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 12-15, and 18-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described above, Claims 1, 8, 11, and 17 have been rewritten to include the limitations of Claims 2, 9, 12, and 18, respectively. Favorable action is requested.

New Claims

New dependent Claims 21-24, which correspond to original dependent Claims 4-7, have been added. As depending from allowable independent Claim 1, these claims are also allowable. Favorable action is requested.

Original Claim 13, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, paragraph 5), has been rewritten in independent form as new Claim 25. Favorable action is requested.

New dependent Claims 26-28, which correspond to original dependent claims 13-16, but now depend from allowable independent Claim 25, have been added. As depending from allowable independent Claim 25, these claims are also allowable. Favorable action is requested.

New independent Claim 29 is allowable at least because the references relied on in the Office Action in rejecting the claims do not recite securing first and second mirrors to a housing in a reflective system through respective precisions pinholes where the pinholes lie along an optical axis of the reflective system. Indeed, the reference relied on in the Office Action in rejecting certain claims, *Shen*, clearly fails to show a precision pinhole in a second mirror aligned with a precision pinhole in a first mirror along an optical axis at the reflective system. As is clearly shown in Figure 1 of *Shen*, no precision pinholes are used to secure the respective mirrors of *Shen* to a housing along an optical axis of the reflective system. Favorable action is requested.

New independent Claims 30, 32, 33, and 34 are also presented. Claims 33 and 34 correspond to originally-presented Claims 11 and 17. Claim 30 is allowable at least because

none of the references relied on in the Office Action recite “the first mirror blank comprising a single precision pinhole aligned with an axis of rotation of the lathe.” Claim 32 is allowable at least because none of the references relied on in the Office Action recite “wherein the precision pinholes in the first and second mirrors are aligned along an optical axis of the reflective system,” for reasons analogous to those described above in conjunction with Claim 29.

Claim 33 is allowable for reasons analogous to those described above in conjunction with Claim 30. Claim 34 is allowable for reasons analogous to those described above in conjunction with Claim 29. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

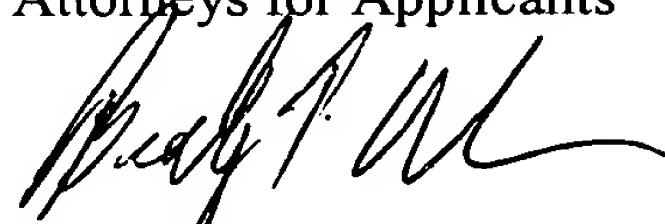
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

A check in the amount of \$782.00 is enclosed, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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